


**MEMORIAL**

OF


**PAUL BECK, JR. AND THOMAS SPARKS,**

**MANUFACTURERS OF SHOT.**



**DECEMBER 8, 1820.**

Printed by order of the Senate of the United States:



**WASHINGTON:**

**PRINTED BY GALES & SEATON.**

**1820.**

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TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, IN CONGRESS  
OF THE UNITED STATES:

The Memorial of Paul Beck, jun. and Thomas Sparks, of the city of Philadelphia, manufacturers of shot, respectfully sheweth:

That your memorialists, confiding in the fostering care and protection of the government, and believing that, at all times, they might expect to be placed upon an equal footing with the foreign manufacturer, have expended large sums of money in the erection and establishment of shot towers, in the city of Philadelphia; that they are now experiencing an evil, from which, they respectfully hope, they shall be relieved, when the Legislature shall see, that, according to the existing duties on shot and lead, the foreign manufacturer has a decided advantage over your memorialists.

The existing duty on lead is one cent per pound, and is supposed to be sufficient for the protection of the lead interest, connected with the working of the lead mines in our own country. The duty on shot is two cents per pound; and it is supposed that the legislature intended this as a sufficient protection to the shot manufacturer at home, and, but for one circumstance, the effect intended would be produced. The English manufacturer, at all times, purchases 120 pounds as the hundred weight of lead, and sells to the United States 112 pounds; thus saving to himself 8 pounds in 112 pounds; and the price of linen bagging he has at first cost, which, with the charges and duty to us on importation, is nearly fifty per cent. on that article alone, and making a difference of about ten cents in the hundred weight; which two items are nearly sufficient to pay the additional cent duty on shot, laid for our protection. The consequence is, that the foreign manufacturer has all the advantage of the difference of labor when he comes into the market here, the freight and insurance being the same on shot and lead. It is, then, plainly to be seen, that the present duty on shot gives, in reality, no difference in favor of the American manufacturer; but a bounty, in fact, equal to the difference of labor, to the foreign manufacturers, and leaves him exposed to all the competition which can be carried on by the great capital of foreign manufacturers, and the inferior price of labor, of which they are enabled to avail themselves. The fruits of this competition are easily proven; and the experience of your memorialists enables them to declare, that it cannot be sustained on the part of the American manufacturer.

In endeavoring to support their establishments, which have been costly in the formation, your memorialists have suffered a heavy loss already, and have reached a point at which their exertions must cease, unless aid can be had from your wisdom. If it shall seem fit to Congress to lend their further protection, by the laying of an additional duty of one cent per pound on shot, your memorialists conceive that they may yet continue their works; and, if the community has an interest in the preservation of these manufactures, it will be promoted. Your memorialists, therefore, pray that you will be pleased to lay an additional duty of one cent per pound on imported shot.

PAUL BECK, JR.

THOMAS SPARKS.

The subscribers, dealers in the article of shot, express their desire that the object of the foregoing petition may be attained. They are persuaded that the additional duty of one cent per pound on shot, which it is requested should be imposed, would operate beneficially to to the home manufacturer and to the community. They readily declare that they give a preference to the shot manufactured in the United States, on account of its superior quality; and they deem the regularity of prices of much importance; which can only be settled and preserved by the support of the manufactories here. The interest of the foreign manufacturer prompts him to ship such quantities of the article, and to make such sacrifices, as to reduce the price, and destroy all competition on the part of our manufacturers. By these means our manufactories must be closed; all regularity of price is destroyed; and, eventually, the foreigner becomes master of the market. For these reasons, the subscribers entertain and express the hope, that the Legislature will impose the additional duty requested.

Patterson & Jones,  
Matthew Baxter,  
Charles Egner,  
Sweyer & Koons,  
Benj. E. Carpenter & Co.  
Christian Snyder,  
Thos. & Wm. H. Hart,  
William Warner,  
John Bartlit & Co.  
Samuel Hurd,  
Wm. R. Thompson & Co.  
Samuel V. Anderson,  
John H. Stevenson,

Hollingshead & Platt,  
David & Wm. K. Correy,  
Thomas & Leidy,  
William Newell, jr.  
Henry White,  
Thomas H. Roberts,  
J. H. Train,  
John B. Budd,  
Jacob Clement,  
Wm. Wilson,  
Adams & Reath,  
James Mathew.

*Statement of the profits and losses on the Shot Manufacturing business, the last four years.*

March 1, 1816.		
Stock on hand this day	-	\$16,785 06
Lead and materials purchased, and labor paid, &c. from the 1st of March, 1816, to 1st March, 1817,	-	38,902 18
		<u>55,687 24</u>

March 1, 1817		
Stock on hand this day	-	26,058 97
Lead and materials purchased, and labor paid for, &c. from 1st March, 1817, to 1st March, 1818	-	38,739 26
		<u>64,798 23</u>

March 1st, 1818		
Stock on hand this day	-	41,565 79
Lead and materials purchased, and labor paid, &c. from 1st March, 1818, to 1st March, 1819	-	21,154 18
		<u>62,719 97</u>
Gain this year, up to 1st March, 1819		145 54
		<u>62,865 51</u>

By sales of shot and lead, from 1st March,		
- 1816, to 1st March, 1817	-	\$25,848 97
Amount of stock on hand, 1st March, 1817		26,058 97
		<u>51,907 94</u>
Making a loss for the year ending March		
1st, 1817	-	3,779 30
		<u>55,687 24</u>

By sales of shot and lead, from 1st March,		
1817, to 1st March, 1818	-	21,692 03
Amount of stock on hand, 1st March, 1818		41,565 79
		<u>63,257 82</u>
Making a loss, for the year ending March		
1st, 1818	-	1,540 41
		<u>64,798 23</u>

By sales of shot and lead, from 1st March,		
1818, to 1st March, 1819	-	47,528 04
Amount of stock on hand, 1st March, 1819		15,337 47
		<u>62,865 51</u>

*STATEMENT*—Continued.

March 1, 1819.			
Stock on hand this day	- - -	\$15,337 47	
Lead and materials purchased, and labor paid, &c. from 1st March, 1819, to 1st March, 1820	- - -	16,079 44	
		<u>31,416 91</u>	
Gain this year, up to 1st March, 1820	-	522 20	
		<u>31,939 11</u>	
By sales of shot and lead, from 1st March, 1819, to 1st March, 1820			14,628 72
Stock on hand 1st March, 1820	-		17,310 39
			<u>\$31,939 11</u>

RECAPITULATION.

Loss to 1st March, 1817	- - - - -	3,779 30	
Ditto to 1st March, 1818	- - - - -	1,540 41	
		<u>5,319 71</u>	
Gain to 1st March, 1819	- - - - -	145 54	
Ditto to 1st March, 1820	- - - - -	522 20	
		<u>667 74</u>	
Actual loss in four years' manufacturing	- - - - -		<u>\$4,651 97</u>